A NEW RIG.—At Boston, U. S., a pamphlet on ship rigging has been lately published by Captain R. B. Forbes, who, from his numerous inventions and recommendations of improvements in ships, as to model, steering, chain-cables, pumps, windlasses, compass-lights, lightning-conductors, life-boats, life-buoys, life-preservers—seems to be, if not a perfect Ark-wright in his way, at least a first-rate ship-wright. His last achievement is regarded as his first in point of importance, and as to economy, convenience, and safety. It is not exactly "a wheel-rigged ship," for bolt and blind management that the captain has thus recently invented, but a simplification of the usual troublesome process of "taking in a reef," which, indeed, as every landsman even knows who has read the thrilling strain of Falconer in his Shipwreck, becomes not only a troublesome but a dangerous, if not an impossible task in a strong gust of wind, when it is most of all essential to "take in a reef." This boast of the daring and destruction of the rash has been disarmed, it is said, of all its terrors by this captain of captains. Without reducing the surface of canvass necessary to propel the ship, he has so arranged it, that the topsails and maintop gallant sail have only a single reef in each, which, once in, renders the ship as snug as if under close reefs of the old rig; and this is accomplished by having long lower mast heads, upon which the first topsails are set. His rig, in fact, has two topsails upon each topmast, one above, and the other below the cap. The nautical reader will therefore probably be of opinion that the upper topsail can always be carried to the last moment, simply because it can be easily taken in, and that then, without reefing at all, the ship is at once equal to one of the old rig, under double reefs. His yards, too, on the fore and main-mast are, all but one, of the same dimensions, an advantage, it is conceived, of no ordinary importance in the event of disaster aloft. This new rig, it is said, has been fully tested.

THE LEANING TOWER AT PISA.—It has ever appeared to me to be an error in judgment to represent the well known tower at Pisa in a leaning position. It was originally built straight, then why not represent it so? When architects discover ruins of an interesting building, their care is to arrange them in order, and to represent the fabric in its pristine state; why, then, make an exception in the case of the beautiful structure alluded to, and represent it apparently tottering to the ground, and so seize upon an accident which greatly mars its effect? Had the building been originally constructed in a leaning position, it would have been an absurdity, on the part of the architect, not worthy of being recorded. The fact of the tower being constantly represented in elaborate drawings and expensive plates under its present unsightly aspect, has led to the belief with many that the original designer intended thereby to produce a sort of architectural *tour de force*; and I met persons at Pisa who were astonished, upon examining the building, to find that its leaning position was owing to a local accident, which all the towers built in that city had been more or less subjected to. The dome of St. Genevieve, at Paris, subsided some years since, and was skilfully arrested in its fall; the oblique lines in the interior still tell the tale; but who would think of marking that defect in giving a representation of the design of that building?—A. W. H.

THE MASTER CARPENTERS' SOCIETY held its March meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday evening. In reply to several inquiries as to the intended New Buildings Bill, it was intimated by the chairman of the Buildings Bill Committee that it was now about to be printed, and he had no doubt that the improvements would give satisfaction. Previous to the meeting being adjourned, the whole of the members present consented to be stewards at the ensuing anniversary dinner of the Builders' Benevolent Institution.

HOLBORN HILL.—Sir: If the bill were made to start from the centre of Farringdon-street, and gradually end at Fetter-lane, there would be less hill to encounter than on the Snow-hill side. Men are now lowering the crown. I have looked at it carefully, and cannot conceive the utility of stepping off the curb, a decivity of at least 10 inches, in front of the gin-shop at the corner of Farringdon-street.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT is about to shine again, after temporary darkness. Mr. Staite is announced to give two lectures on its commercial value, at the Western Literary Institution, where it was first exhibited to the public.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, CLERKENWELL.—The trustees have given instructions to Mr. W. P. Griffith, architect, to take the necessary steps for the erection of a scaffolding to repair the steeple of this church, which is to be done by public contract, of which due notice will be given.

MOSS MADNESS.—The following is a list of the tenders delivered for additions and alterations to the Hampstead workhouse. Mr. H. E. Kendall, jun., architect:—

Barr	£8,644
Pollock and McLennan	6,894
Glenn	6,494
Smith	5,970
Reynolds and Co.	5,691
Hill	5,656
Clowser	5,287
Pilbeam (accepted)	3,179

NOTICE.

"BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS, MODERN AND MEDIÆVAL," being Illustrations of recently erected Edifices, and of some of the Architectural Works of the Middle Ages, with Descriptive Particulars. Edited by George Godwin, F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects, &c., &c., &c., Editor of THE BUILDER.

Under the above title it is proposed to publish, in bi-monthly parts, price 2s. 6d. each, the principal Illustrations of Modern and Mediæval Buildings which have appeared from time to time in THE BUILDER, with their accompanying descriptive particulars. Each part will contain about eight plates, folio size, and eight pages of letter press, with plans and details. The engravings will be printed separately, with care, on a tinted paper.

The first part will be issued in time to be forwarded with the magazines for May 1, and will contain:—

Her Majesty's Marine Residence, Osborne: with Plan.
The Carlton Club House, Pall Mall.
Church of St. Isaac, at St. Petersburgh; with Details.
Kensington Union Workhouse.
The Liverpool Branch Bank of England; and Details.
The New Throne, Canterbury Cathedral.
The North Porch, Restored, of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.
The Interior of Lincoln's-Inn Hall.

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TENDERS

For building an addition to the Euston Hotel, in Seymour-crescent: Mr. P. Hardwicke, architect:—

Cubitt	£3,950
Higgs	3,641
Holland	3,599
Heyward	3,578
Brontlebury	3,550
Mashman	3,549

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the ensuing week.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3.—Instit. of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 4.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Galvanized Iron and Galvanized Tinned Iron.*"—We have received a very large number of letters on the subject of a recent paragraph concerning these materials, and will give them consideration.

"*To Polish Old Marble.*"—A correspondent asks,—the best means to clean and polish old marble chimney pieces.

Received.—"R. S." (we shall be very glad to see the drawings and will write), "J. B." (shall hear from us), "Ajax" (see present number), "W. and H.," "E. M.," "J. C.," "Dr. Ryan," "G. W." (THE BUILDER will be forwarded to him regularly by post on Friday, direct from the office, on receipt of money order), "O. H." (we cannot inform him), "A. F. S." (charge would be 6s. Send money order), "M. A. F." Subscriber (amount of *royalty* would depend on quality, locality, &c.), "C. and J. G.," "E. D.," "Town Subscriber," "E. B.," "W. P. P.," "J. W. and Sons," "Old Subscriber" (Mr. Richardson's works, published by M'Lean), "A Surveyor," "J. 9." (all in good time), "W. C." (block shall be sent), "J. A. J.," "J. E. T.," "S. S.," "R. H. M.," "J. F." (the contents are 19 feet 7 inches), "Pantechnicon," "R. T. B." (a reply without further information might mislead; we therefore prefer not answering), "P. P.," "R. and B." "A History of Architecture," by Edward A. Freeman, M.A.; Masters, Bond-street, 1849; "Tables and Formulæ for Computation of Life Contingencies," by Peter Gray, F.R.A.S.; Longman and Co., 1849; *Southwood's* "Pumps for Breakwaters, &c."

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—NOTICE to ARTISTS.—All works of Painting, Sculpture, or Architecture intended for the ensuing EXHIBITION of the ROYAL ACADEMY must be sent in on MONDAY, the 30th, or by Mr. o'Clock in the evening of TUESDAY, the 10th of April next, after which time no work can possibly be received, nor can any works be received which have already been publicly exhibited. The other regulations necessary to be observed may be obtained at the Royal Academy.

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